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Country cooperation frameworks, and related matters

Extension of the first regional cooperation framework for Latin America and the Caribbean

Note by the Administrator

1. The first Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) for Latin America and the Caribbean (DP/RCF/RLA/1) was approved by the Executive Board at its first regular session 1997. A subsequent strategy implementation document, prepared at the request of the Board outlined the means by which the objectives stated in the first RCF were to be achieved. The RCF focuses on five priority areas: (a) social development and poverty eradication; (b) governance and the consolidation of democracy; (c) environment and development; (d) science and technology; (e) trade and integration, with gender as a cross-cutting theme for all five priority areas.

2. The programme has made important advances in the priority areas and a synergy has been established between the national, subregional and regional levels of intervention. As a result of the introduction of the strategic results framework, UNDP has streamlined the range of regional projects and sharpened their focus, thereby ensuring a stronger role for the RCF in implementation and coordination.

3. An original allocation of $15,234,000 was provided for the period 1997-1999. This amount was subsequently to cover an additional year. Further reductions, the latest of which was in December of 1999, have affected programming in the areas of science and technology as well as trade and development and have slowed down the general pace of implementation for the RCF.

4. As the RCF time line has changed, the planned evaluation will be conducted in March 2000 to analyse progress accomplished, to ascertain relevance and to develop inputs for the new RCF, which will cover the period 2001 to 2003.

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